

Please replace claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, 17 and 20-27 as follow:

Sub 1
1. (Twice Amended) A synthetic or isolated nucleic acid fragment which comprises a nucleotide sequence that is identical or fully complementary to a first sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 1825 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence. ✓

2. (Twice Amended) The nucleic acid fragment according to claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence is identical or fully complementary to a second sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence. ✓

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5. (Twice Amended) A probe for identifying *Trypanosoma cruzi*, said probe comprising a segment of at least five contiguous nucleotides of a nucleic acid consisting of a nucleotide sequence that is identical or fully complementary to a sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence, wherein said probe contains no more than 100 nucleotides. 110

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8. (Twice Amended) A primer for amplifying a nucleotide sequence, said primer comprising a segment of at least five contiguous nucleotides of a nucleic acid consisting of a nucleotide sequence that is identical or fully complementary to a sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence, wherein said primer contains no more than 100 nucleotides. NO

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9. (Amended) The primer according to claim 8, wherein said primer comprises 5 to 30 nucleotides. NO

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10. (Twice Amended) The primer according to claim 9, wherein said primer comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10 and SEQ ID NO:12.

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17. (Twice Amended) The reagent according to claim 11, further comprising at least one primer comprising a segment of at least five contiguous nucleotides of a nucleic acid which comprises a nucleotide sequence that is identical or fully complementary to a first sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 1825 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

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20. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein before said DNA is exposed to said probe, said DNA is amplified in the presence of an enzymatic system with at least one primer, wherein said primer comprises a segment of at least five contiguous nucleotides of a nucleic acid sequence that is identical or fully complementary to a sequence identified in SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

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21. (Amended) A synthetic or isolated nucleic acid fragment that comprises a nucleotide sequence having, for at least one segment of 30 contiguous nucleotides, at least 85% homology with a segment of 30 contiguous nucleotides of a sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

22. (Amended) The nucleic acid fragment of claim 21, said nucleotide sequence having, for at least one segment of 30 contiguous nucleotides, at least 85% homology with a segment of 30 contiguous nucleotides of the sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 1825 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

23. (Amended) The nucleic acid fragment of claim 21, said nucleotide sequence having, for at least one segment of 30 contiguous nucleotides, at least 85% homology with a segment of 30 contiguous nucleotides of the sequence starting at nucleotide 1266 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

24. (Amended) The nucleic acid fragment of claim 21, wherein said nucleotide sequence is identical or fully complementary to a second nucleotide sequence starting at

nucleotide 1266 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

25. (Amended) A probe according to claim 5, wherein said nucleotide sequence is identical or fully complementary to a sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 1825 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

26. (Amended) A probe according to claim 5, wherein said nucleotide sequence is identical or fully complementary to a sequence starting at nucleotide 1266 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

27. (Amended) A process for detecting and/or identifying *Trypanosoma cruzi* in a biological sample, comprising:

exposing DNA or RNA from the sample to a probe under such conditions that said probe hybridizes to a nucleotide sequence identical or fully complementary to a sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence; and

detecting hybridization of the probe to said DNA or RNA to detect and/or identify *Trypanosoma cruzi*.

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 7-27, 29 and 31-35 are pending. Claims 6, 28 and 30 are canceled and claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, 17 and 20-27 are amended herein. No new matter is added.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(ii)).

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-identified application on August 24, 1998. However, Applicants have not received